The list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented) A method of improving bioavailability of ergot derivatives administered using sustained-release delivery systems comprising combining an ergot derivative or mixture thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic swelling agent or mixture thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

said ergot derivative is selected from the group consisting of α-dihydroergocryptine and bromocriptine.

21. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the bioavailability is at least equal to the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

22. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the bioavailability is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

23. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the ergot derivative is α-dihydroergocryptine.

24. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the ergot derivative is bromocriptine.

25. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the hydrophilic swelling agent is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohols, polyoxyethylene glycols and poloxamers and mixtures thereof.

26. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients is selected from the group consisting of lubricants, suspending agents, binders, diluents, flavorants, colorants, dispersing agents and wetting agents.

27. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the ratio of ergot derivative to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:10.

28. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:5.

29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the ratio of bromocriptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:5.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein about 5 to about 80 mg of ergot derivative is present.

31. (previously presented) A method of improving bioavailability of ergot derivatives administered using sustained-release delivery systems comprising combining an ergot derivative or mixture thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic swelling agent or mixture thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and wherein the bioavailability is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system;

said ergot derivative is selected from the group consisting of α-dihydroergocryptine and bromocriptine.

32. (previously presented) A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

an ergot derivative or mixture thereof;

a pharmaceutically acceptable swelling agent or mixture thereof; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

said composition having a bioavailability at least equal to the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system, and wherein said ergot derivative is selected from the group consisting of α-dihydroergocryptine and bromocriptine.

33. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the bioavailability is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

34. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ergot derivative is α-dihydroergocryptine.

35. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the hydrophilic swelling agent is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohols, polyoxyethylene glycols and poloxamers and mixtures thereof.

36. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients is selected from the group consisting of lubricants, suspending agents, binders, diluents, flavorants, colorants, dispersing agents and wetting agents.

37. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio of ergot derivative to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:10.

38. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:5.

39. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio of bromocriptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:5.

40. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ergot derivative is present in the amount of about 5 to about 80 mg.

41. (new) A method of improving bioavailability of ergot derivatives administered using sustained-release delivery systems comprising combining α-dihydroergocryptine with a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic swelling agent or mixture thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and wherein the bioavailability is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of the ergot derivative administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

42. (new) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the hydrophilic swelling agent is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohols, polyoxyethylene glycols and poloxamers and mixtures thereof.

43. (new) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients is selected from the group consisting of lubricants, suspending agents, binders, diluents, flavorants, colorants, dispersing agents and wetting agents.

44. (new) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:10.

45. (new) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:5.

46. (new) The method according to Claim 41, wherein α-dihydroergocryptine is present in the amount of about 5 to about 80 mg.

47. (new) A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition comprising:
about 5 to about 80 mg α-dihydroergocryptine;

a pharmaceutically acceptable swelling agent or mixture thereof, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:10; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

said composition having a bioavailability at least equal to the bioavailability of α-dihydroergocryptine administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

48. (new) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients is selected from the group consisting of lubricants, suspending agents, binders, diluents, flavorants, colorants, dispersing agents and wetting agents.

49. (new) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:5.

50. (new) A method of improving bioavailability of ergot derivatives administered using sustained-release delivery systems comprising combining bromocriptine with a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic swelling agent or mixture thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

51. (new) A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

bromocriptine;

a pharmaceutically acceptable swelling agent or mixture thereof; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

said composition having a bioavailability at least equal to the bioavailability of bromocriptine administered using a conventional drug delivery system.